

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 MCT-01 SY-05

IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /084 W

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R 301033Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TC

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISTANBUL AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. CHARGE RAISED SUBJECT REFTEL AUGUST 30 DURING CALL ON
SAIF GHOBASH, MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. CHARGE NOTED
THAT WHILE SECURITY PROCEDURES FOLLOWED AT ABU DHABI
AIRPORT SEEMED REASONABLY GOOD (SEE MORE BELOW) WE DID
WISH UAEG TO BE AWARE OF OUR CONTINUING CONCERN REGARDING
THIS

MATTER AND DID WISH TO URGE THAT RESPONSIBLE AUTHORI-
TIES LOOK FOR WAYS TO TIGHTEN SECURITY. CHARGE NOTED THAT
ON INTERNATIONAL FRONT WE HOPED THAT UAEG WOULD TAKE
ACTION TO RATIFY MONTREAL AND HAGUE CONVENTIONS ON THIS
SUBJECT. GHOBASH RESPONDED THAT UAEG DEFINITELY OPPOSED
TO SUCH ACTION REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL MOTIVES. EVEN IF
LOSS OF LIFE WAS AVOIDED, PUTTING INNOCENT PASSENGERS
THROUGH EXTENDED THREATS SUCH AS INVOLVED IN SUCH ACTS
WAS INTOLERABLE. UAEG WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD LOCALLY
TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURRENCES AND HAD INDEED SOUGHT TO
TIGHTEN ITS SECURITY AFTER PREVIOUS INSTANCES WHEN
UAE TERRITORY USED AS STAGING POINTS FOR SUCH ACTS.

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REGARDING TWO CONVENTIONS, GHOBASH SOMEWHAT APOLOGETICALLY

NOTED THAT UAEG COULD NOT ACT EXCEPT IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ARAB STATES. THESE TREATIES HAD TAKEN ON POLITICAL OVERTONES WHICH MEANT UNFORTUNATELY THEY COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ABSTRACT. BUT GHOBASH AGAIN REITERATED THAT GOVERNMENT ALWAYS WILLING TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO PREVENT SUCH ACTS AT HOME.

2. RE CURRENT PROCEDURES, UAE HAS AT LEAST FOUR FUNCTIONING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS (ALTHOUGH THOSE IN SHARJAH AND RAS AL-KHAIMEH HANDLE TOTAL OF ONLY FOUR FLIGHTS PER WEEK AND HENCE HARDLY COUNT). WE NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF SECURITY TREATMENT IN DUBAI BUT WILL CHECK AND REPORT FURTHER. IN ABU DHABI ARRANGEMENTS RATE EQUAL TO IF NOT BETTER THAN MOST. SECURITY CHECK, INCLUDING EXAMINATION OF HAND BAGGAGE AND BODY SEARCH, TAKES PLACE AS PASSENGERS LEAVING TRANSIT LOUNGE FOR AIRCRAFT. IN SHORT ALL PASSENGERS WHETHER BOARDING HERE OR IN TRANSIT PASS THROUGH CHECK PRIOR TO GETTING ON PLANE. BODY CHECK IS SOMETIMES SOMEWHAT CURSORY, BUT NO MORE SO THAN WE HAVE SEARCH OF LADY PASSENGERS AND WE HAVE SEEN FRISKING UNEARTH EVEN SMALL PEN KNIVES WHICH HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY CONFISCATED AND PASSED TO AIRCRAFT CREW FOR RETURN ON DISEMBARKING. IN SHORT, PROCEDURES IN ABU DHABI MEET REASONABLE STANDARD AT THIS TIME.

5. WE SEE NO PRESENT NEED FOR FAA SECURITY TRAINING OR ADVICE.
PEALE.

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